

TRANSITIONAL BENEFITS

education and training

R.I.T.A.s

transportation

child care

medicaid

food stamps

The information given here is about transitional benefits which people can get after they are no longer in the WAGES (cash assistance) Program. Please remember that the law changes often. Talk to the Legal Services or Legal Aid office near you to make sure the law has not changed. You can locate them by

looking in your phone book or asking directory assistance.

transitional education and training

- ★ **FOR CURRENT AND FORMER WAGES CASH ASSISTANCE PARTICIPANTS**
- ★ **WHO ARE WORKING OR LOOKING FOR WORK**
- ★ **SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE TRAINING, GET EDUCATION, OR GET MORE SKILLS THAT ARE JOB-RELATED**
- ★ **CAN BE USED TO UPGRADE YOUR CURRENT JOB OR TO CHANGE TO ANOTHER OCCUPATION**
- ★ **CAN ALSO GET SERVICES TO SUPPORT THIS EDUCATION OR TRAINING (LIKE CHILD CARE AND TRANSPORTATION) WHILE ATTENDING**
- ★ **FREE COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING SHOULD BE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF; EDUCATION AND TRAINING COSTS, IF ANY, CAN BE SHARED BY EMPLOYER AND WAGES COALITION**
- ★ **TRANSITIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IS AVAILABLE FOR TWO YEARS AFTER LEAVING WAGES CASH ASSISTANCE FOR ANY REASON**

R.I.T.A.s

(Retention incentive training accounts)

- ★ **LIKE A DEDICATED BANK ACCOUNT WHICH A WAGES COALITION SETS UP FOR PARTICIPANTS WITH JOBS**
- ★ **WAGES COALITION MAKES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ACCOUNT, OFTEN AS A REWARD FOR RETAINING A JOB FOR A SET TIME PERIOD**
- ★ **R.I.T.A. FUNDS CAN ONLY BE USED TO PROMOTE JOB RETENTION AND JOB ADVANCEMENT**
- ★ **R.I.T.A. FUNDS CAN BE USED TO ACQUIRE EDUCATION OR TRAINING NEEDED FOR HIGHER-SKILLED, HIGHER-WAGE JOBS**
- ★ **R.I.T.A. FUNDS CAN BE USED TO PAY FOR TUITION, FEES, BOOKS, AND SUPPORTS LIKE CHILD CARE AND TRANSPORTATION**
- ★ **EACH LOCAL WAGES COALITION CAN DECIDE WHAT SCHOOLS AND COURSES QUALIFY FOR USE OF R.I.T.A. FUNDS**
- ★ **IT IS UP TO EACH WAGES COALITION WHETHER OR NOT TO SET UP R.I.T.A.S**

transitional transportation

- ★ **FOR FORMER¹ WAGES CASH ASSISTANCE PARTICIPANTS**
- ★ **TO GET OR KEEP A JOB OR DO TRAINING**
- ★ **THE TRANSPORTATION MUST BE JOB-RELATED**
- ★ **CAN BE USED TO PAY FOR DRIVERS LICENSE FEES AS WELL AS REPAIRS, REGISTRATION, AND INSURANCE FOR THE VEHICLE ITSELF**
- ★ **ANY OTHER KIND OF TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT GIVEN TO CURRENT PARTICIPANTS CAN BE USED AS A TRANSITIONAL SERVICE (LIKE BUS PASSES AND GAS CARDS)**
- ★ **CAN EVEN PAY TOWARD A DECENT CAR (VEHICLE WITH A VALUE UP TO \$8500)**
- ★ **TRANSITIONAL TRANSPORTATION HELP CAN BE GIVEN BY DIRECT PAYMENT (TO REIMBURSE APPROVED EXPENSES) OR BY VOUCHER PAYABLE TO SOMEONE ELSE**
- ★ **TRANSITIONAL TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE FOR ONE YEAR AFTER LEAVING WAGES CASH ASSISTANCE FOR ANY REASON**

¹ "Current" WAGES cash assistance participants get transportation help under another category.

transitional child care

- ☆ **AVAILABLE TO FORMER² WAGES CASH ASSISTANCE PARTICIPANTS FOR TWO YEARS IF FAMILY INCOME IS LOW (185% FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL), AROUND \$2182 FOR A FAMILY OF 3**
- ☆ **RIGHT NOW THIS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO FORMER PARTICIPANTS NO MATTER WHY THEY LEFT WAGES CASH ASSISTANCE; BUT STATE LIKELY TO RESTRICT IT TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NO LONGER GETTING CASH ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF INCREASED EARNINGS OR CHILD SUPPORT**
- ☆ **TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN (EVEN IF OVER AGE 13) FOR TWO YEARS IF FORMER PARTICIPANTS NEED HELP TO WORK**
- ☆ **AFTER TWO YEARS ANYONE CAN KEEP GETTING SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE BUT ONLY IF FAMILY INCOME DROPS LOWER (100%-150% FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL), AROUND \$1180-\$1735 FOR A FAMILY OF 3**
- ☆ **APPLY FOR AND GET TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE THROUGH REGULAR SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE PROGRAM**

² “Current” WAGES cash assistance participants get help with child care under another category.

transitional medicaid

- ★ **WORKS THE SAME AS REGULAR MEDICAID**
- ★ **FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO GOT BENEFITS FOR 3 MONTHS AND WHO GET CUT OFF OF WAGES CASH ASSISTANCE BECAUSE THEIR EARNINGS ARE TOO HIGH**
- ★ **THEY CAN GET TRANSITIONAL MEDICAID FOR 6 MONTHS NO MATTER HOW HIGH THEIR INCOME IS**
- ★ **AUTOMATIC; NO RE-APPLICATION NEEDED**
- ★ **CAN EVEN GET 6 MORE MONTHS OF TRANSITIONAL MEDICAID IF THEY REPORT INCOME AND IF THEIR INCOME IS NO MORE THAN 185% FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (ABOUT \$2182 FOR A FAMILY OF 3)**
- ★ **EVERYONE TERMINATED FROM WAGES CASH ASSISTANCE DUE TO EARNINGS SHOULD GET A NOTICE EXPLAINING TRANSITIONAL MEDICAID**
- ★ **PEOPLE WHO ARE CUT OFF OF WAGES CASH ASSISTANCE DUE TO ALIMONY OR CHILD SUPPORT CAN GET EXTENDED MEDICAID FOR FOUR MONTHS INSTEAD OF TRANSITIONAL MEDICAID**

food stamps

- ★ **A FOOD STAMP CASE CAN NOT BE CLOSED JUST BECAUSE A FAMILY LOSES CASH ASSISTANCE DUE TO WELFARE TIME LIMITS, FINDING A JOB, OR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND LEARNFARE SANCTIONS³**

- ★ **THE WAGES CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM'S TIME LIMITS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH FOOD STAMPS**

- ★ **MOST LOW INCOME PEOPLE WILL STILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS EVEN IF THEY ARE WORKING FULL-TIME AND NOT GETTING ANY CASH ASSISTANCE**

- ★ **THE GROSS INCOME LIMIT FOR FOOD STAMPS IS SET AT 130% FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (ABOUT \$1504 FOR FAMILY OF 3)**

- ★ **ONCE YOU ARE OFF CASH ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER, THE TEST FOR HOW HIGH A VALUE YOUR VEHICLE CAN BE COULD BE DIFFERENT; YOU MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS IF YOUR CAR IS WORTH MORE THAN \$4650 (OR \$6650 IF YOU HAVE NO OTHER CASH ON HAND OR MONEY IN THE BANK)**

³ Food Stamps may be cut off, however, when a WAGES cash assistance participant is sanctioned for failing to do an assigned work activity.